No import of Ethyl Alcohol has been reported during this period. The reported import of Methanol has been as follows:

Year	Import (in tonnes)
1989-90	52,700
1990-91	15,200

Shortage of Vital Medicines in Delhi

2619. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is facing an acute shortage of many vital medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have since finalised the new drug pricing Policy; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN):

(a) and (b) No general shortage of any vital drug came to the notice of the Government, except for some temporary shortage of branded formulations for which therapeutic equivalents were generally available.

(c) and (d) Review of the Drug Policy 1986 is in its final stages and a background Note has already been placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 12.8.1992.

Profit of Multinational and Indian Drug Companies

2620. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) the sales turn-over, Profit before and after tax for the last three years of top ten multinational and Indian drug companies;

(b) the details of the bulk drugs produced from the basic stage by those Companies individually;

(c) whether it is a fact that the growth profitability of the drug sector has been severely afected because of unhealthy Government controls and lack of the required policy support; and

(d) if so, what is being done to liberalise drug sector to attain its potential growth during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) To the extent available, information is enclosed (Statement No. 1) (*See* below) Rest of the information would be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Industrial approval for manufacture of bulk drugs are given only as per basic stages. Manufacture from late stage intermediates/Penultimates is permitted only in a few cases taking into consideration various reasons like technological constraints, economic viability etc.

To the extent information is available, drugs manufactured by 10 leading multinational and 10 Indian companies are given in the Statement encolsed. (Statement No. 2) (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The Review of the Durg Policy 1986 is almost in its final stages and a Background Note has already been placed, on 2.8.92, on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament for discussion. One of the objectives of the review is to encourage more investment in the durg sector to meet the growing requirements of medicines in the country.